

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 PC-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07
AID-05 /098 W

-----211222Z 042576 /22

O 211110Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3142
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7 IMMEDIATE
DIA WASH DC IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASH DC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KINSHASA 3745

PASS PEACE CORPS; USIA FOR IAA, IOP

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMR, CG, AG
SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: SITREP 40 (APRIL 21, 1977)

1. FOLLOWING IS THE 40TH MISSION-WIDE SURVEY INCLUDING REPORTS
FROM LUBUMBASHI.

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MILITARY SITUATION AS OF 201800Z APR 77
NOTE: ALL GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCES ARE TAKEN FROM JOINT OPERATIONS
GRAPHIC SERIES 1501 MAPS.

2. HOSTILE FORCES: KINSHASA EVENING TV NEWS COVERED TWO POW'S
WHO WERE PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC ON 20 APR IN CONNECTION WITH A
YOUTH MARCH OF SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT MOBUTU. DDN HAD NO

INTERROGATION REPORT AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, DURING QUESTIONING BY LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS, PRISONERS REVEALED FOLLOWING:

- A. THEY WERE BOTH BORN IN KAPANGA.
- B. PRISONERS WERE TRAINED IN TSHIKAPA, ANGOLA.
- C. AT TIME OF INVASION, HOSTILE FORCE COMPOSED OF BATTALION OF EX-KATANGAN GENDARMES OFFICERED BY COMPANY OF CUBANS, MOST OF WHOM FELL IN COMBAT OR FLED. THERE WERE ALSO 15 KATANGAN OFFICERS, SOME OF WHOM WERE LT. COL. ALENGA, MAJ. TSHIKABU AND THOMAS NYEMBO.
- D. EX-GENDARMES WERE TRAINED BY PORTUGUESE AT FIRST AND LATER BY CUBANS BROUGHT IN BY GIZENGA. TRAINING LASTED TWO MONTHS.
- E. WEAPONS USED BY EX-GENDARMES WERE FAL, ROCKET LAUNCHERS, AND MORTARS. ALL WERE OLD, AS PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED WHILE FIGHTING WITH MPLA.
- F. MBUMBA, WHO IS UNDER ORDERS FROM NETO, IS NOW IN MUSENGI, ANGOLA. HE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN A POLICE OFFICER IN DILOLO.

3. ZAIRIAN FORCES:

- A. DDN HAS RECEIVED A REPORT THAT TASK FORCE MUKOBO ADVANCED 10 KMS ON 20 APR TO VICINITY TSHIBUNDA (1029S/2457E).
- B. A SITREP WAS RECEIVED TODAY AT DDN FROM KAMINA BASE, HOWEVER NO CHANGE IN FRIENDLY UNIT LOCATIONS OR DISPOSITIONS REPORTED.
- C. COL. DIKUTA NOW SCHEDULED TO GO TO KAMINA BASE AND ASSUME COMMAND ON 21 APR.
- D. REGARDING THE FAZ USE OF PYGMY TROOPS AS REPORTED IN PRESS ON 20 APR, DDN STATES APPROXIMATELY 130 PYGMY TROOPS FROM EQUATEUR REGION ARE NOW AT KOLWEZI (1043S/2528E) NOT AT MUTSHATSHA AS REPORTED BY THE MEDIA. ANOTHER SOURCE STATES TWO AIR ZAIRE 737 LOADS OF PYGMY TROOPS WERE FLOWN FROM GEMENA (0315S/1946E) IN EQUATEUR VIA KINSHASA'S NDJILI AIRPORT TO KOLWEZI ON 18 APR. ONE SECRET

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LOAD WAS 140; THE OTHER 145 STRONG. THEY WERE NOT IN REGULAR FAZ UNIFORMS AND WERE CARRYING BOWS AND ARROWS ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE.

E. REPORTEDLY SOME ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS WERE OBSERVED BEING POSITIONED AT KINSHASA'S NDJILI AIRPORT ON 20 APR. NUMBER, CALIBER AND TYPE NOT YET ESTABLISHED.

F. LTG BUMBA REMAINS IN KINSHASA. ACCORDING TO A BELGIAN STAFF OFFICER AT DDN, BUMBA ASSUMED THE TITLES OF CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF GENDARMERIE VICE MG BABIA OF 16 OR 17 APR. THIS IS THE FIRST NEWS HEARD OF THIS CHANGE. NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING BUMBA'S ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE DEFENSE OF BAS ZAIRE REGION.

4. MOROCCAN FORCES: NO CHANGE REPORTED BY DDN.

5. TRAINING BY FRANCE AND BELGIUM:

A. FRANCE WILL COMPLETE TRAINING A FAZ PLATOON ON 81MM MORTARS ON 22 APR. THIS PLATOON WILL DEPART FOR KOLWEZI ON 25 APR. FRENCH TRAINING OF AML (PANHARD) CREWS IS TEMPORARILY STOPPED (NO

REASON OFFERED).

B. BELGIUM IS AWAITING RECEIPT OF A TROOP LIST FROM FAZ BEFORE BEGINNING THE TACTICAL TRAINING OF APPROXIMATELY 1700 MEN OF THE KAMANYOLA DIVISION'S 11TH AND 13TH BRIGADES AT KITONA BASE IN BAS ZAIRE. FOUR KAMANYOLA BATTALIONS REMAIN AT KITONA; WHETHER THEY WILL TOTAL THE 1700 MEN SOUGHT BY BELGIUM FOR TRAINING IS NOT YET VERIFIED BY FAZ. ACCORDING TO A BELGIAN STAFF OFFICER, STRENGTH FOR EACH BATTALION IS 520, BUT THEY ARE KNOWN NOT TO BE AT THIS LEVEL.

6. AIR:

A. TACAIR - NOTHING REPORTED

B. RECON - NOTHING REPORTED

C. AIRLIFT - TWO SORTIES BY 737 INTO KOLWEZI; TWO SORTIES BY C-130'S CARRYING POL (INCLUDING CESSNA AVGAS) TO KOLWEZI; ONE SORTIES BY EGYPTIAN AN-12 INTO KAMINA (THIS AIRCRAFT IS REINFORCING FAZA FROM EGYPT UNTIL 26 OR 28 APR, ACCORDING TO A BELGIAN STAFF SECRET

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OFFICER, AT DDN.)

7. DOMESTIC PRESS: KINSHASA MEDIA APRIL 21 HAVE FIELD DAY WITH DISPLAY OF PRISONERS, CAPTURED DOCUMENTS AND WEAPONS, AND APPEARANCE OF MOBUTU AND WIFE BEFORE JAMMED MAY 20 STADIUM. UPBEAT MOOD PERVADES, TYPIFIED BY JMPR MOTION OF SUPPORT: "THE SOVIET TANKS WILL NOT PASS*" EDITORIAL IN "SALONGO" PRAISES ROLE OF ZAIRIAN YOUTH AND ONCE MORE LASHES OUT AGAINST USSR -- "WE KNOW OUR ENEMY... NO ONE HAS ANY NEED OF DEMONSTRATING, HENCEFORTH, WHAT MISERIES THE USSR HAS FORCED UPON US." FOREIGN PRESS "INTERVIEW" OF TWO PRISONERS REPRINTED IN "SALONGO" IN ADDITION TO BEING FEATURED ON TV. "ELIMA" EDITORIAL SAYS THE MASSIVE DISPLAYS OF SUPPORT FOR MOBUTU ARE AN "ELOQUENT DENIAL" OF RUMORS AND REPORTS THAT THERE IS MASSIVE DISCONTENT THROUGHOUT ZAIRE. AS IN PREVIOUS DAYS "ELIMA" ALSO RUNS LONG-WRAP-UP OF FOREIGN REACTION (EEC, NATO, TUNISIA, TOGO, FOR EXAMPLE).

8. DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION:

A. KINSHASA: FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S YOUTH RALLY AT WHICH TWO "CAPTURED KATANGANS" WERE DISPLAYED AND THE PRESIDENT FORCEFULLY ASSAILED THE SOVIET UNION BEFORE AN ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD OF THOUSANDS, KINSHASA HAS RETURNED TODAY TO ITS NORMAL BUSINESS TEMPO. WE NOTE, THOUGH, THAT FOR A SECOND TIME IN AS MANY WEEKS, MOBUTU HAS DEMONSTRATED HIS ABILITY TO TURN OUT A CROWD; AND THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS THAT HIS CONTINUOUS REFERENCES TO THE "RED MENACE" ARE BEGINNING TO YIELD DOMESTIC POLITICAL DIVIDENDS. WHILE MANY EMBASSY CONTACTS RESENT MOBUTU AND FEEL THAT HE HAS ACTED IN A HIGH-HANDED MANNER BY ARRESTING SO MANY LOYAL CITIZENS, SOME HAVE RECENTLY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE INVADERS WOULD BE NO BETTER, PERHAPS WORSE. WITH A DEARTH OF READILY AVAILABLE MODERATE CANDIDATES FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT, MOBUTU MAY WELL SUCCEED, AT

LEAST TEMPORARILY, IN CASTING THE APPARENT POLITICAL CHOICE AS BEING BETWEEN "MOBUTU OR COMMUNISM" IN WHICH CASE HE WOULD PICK UP SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT HE COULD NOT OTHERWISE EXPECT.

B. LUBUMBASHI: UNTZA-SPONSORED MARCH OF SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT ON APRIL 20 DREW INDIFFERENT CROWD OF ABOUT TWO

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THOUSAND PEOPLE TO LOCAL SOCCER STADIUM TO HEAR SPEECH BY REGIONAL COMMISSIONER ASSUMANI. UNION LEADERS AND NEIGHBORHOOD CHIEFS KEPT LISTS OF WHO FAILED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE DESIGNATED POINTS FOR THE MARCH ACROSS TOWN. ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBERS WHO STARTED THE MARCH VARIED FROM 10,000 TO 25,000, BUT MOST DROPPED OUT BEFORE THEY REACHED THE STADIUM. THE PRINCIPAL THEME OF ASSUMANI'S SPEECH WAS THAT THE PEOPLE OF LUBUMBASHI HAD SHOWN THEY WERE ACCOMPLICES TO THE INVADERS BY BELIEVING ALL FAVORABLE RUMORS ABOUT THEM AND ALL MALICIOUS RUMORS ABOUT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. HE SAID THE INVADERS WERE TRYING TO DESTABILIZE MOBUTU'S GOVERNMENT AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD WAS SHOWING GREAT FAITH IN HIM. AS THE EXAMPLE OF INVESTOR'S FAITH IN MOBUTU, HE CITED USAID'S NORTH SHABA MAIZE PROJECT. PEOPLE RESPONDED NEGATIVELY WHEN ACCUSED OF BEING ACCOMPLICES AND MANY ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE THE STADIUM AT WHICH POINT ASSUMANI INTERRUPTED THE SPEECH WHILE PEOPLE WERE FORCED BACK TO THEIR SEATS. THE POPULAR RESPONSES TO SLOGANS AND SONGS WERE EVOKED RELUCTANTLY, SOMETIMES ONLY AFTER SEVERAL ATTEMPTS, AND THEN UNENTHUSIASTICALLY.

C. KOLWEZI: NO CHANGE REPORTED. ONE RECENT VISITOR HAS NOTED THAT THE DUSK TO DAWN CURFEW, NOW SIX WEEKS OLD, IS BEGINNING TO GET ON PEOPLE'S NERVES.

D. KAMINA: METHODISTS REPORT THAT HARASSMENT BY THE MILITARY IN THE CITE HAS CONTINUED AND IN SOME SECTIONS HAS BECOME WORSE. ONE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REPORTED THAT ONLY 30 STUDENTS HAD SHOWN UP AT HIS SCHOOL FOR THE START OF THE NEW TERM ON APR 20.

E. KAFAKUMBA: MILITARY HARASSMENT BY FAZ OF THE LOCAL POPULATION HAS CONTINUED. ONE FAZ OFFICER INFORMED A ZAIRIAN METHODIST MINISTER THAT THE MILITARY PRESENCE WOULD BE INCREASING IN THE FUTURE AND RECOMMENDED THAT HE FLEE INTO THE BUSH.

9. AMERICAN CITIZEN SITUATION: METHODISTS REPORT NO CONTACT AGAIN FOR FIFTH SUCCESSIVE DAY WITH MISSIONARIES IN KAPANGA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROGRESS REPORTS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINSHA03745
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770138-0968
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770435/aaaabddk.tel
Line Count: 214
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 88f3b0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2740272
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHABA INVASION: SITREP 40 (APRIL 21, 1977)
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMR, CG, AG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/88f3b0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009